

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Week ending March 28, 2008

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Governor's Energy Efficiency Summit: Strengthening Business through Energy Savings

April 3, 2008 – 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM *Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine*

This conference and expo is an opportunity to better understand the potential of the new world of energy efficiency technology. Registration is \$25. For more information or to register online, go to:

<http://www.maine.gov/governor/baldacci/policy/EnergySummit.html>.

Work Session postponed. It is expected that BRED may seek postponement of its work session on LD 2257, *An Act to Establish a Uniform Building and Energy Code*, until the week of March 31–April 4.

DIRECTOR'S POLICY AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

Service center rule resolve voted out of committee. The Legislature's BRED committee voted out LD 2250, a *Resolve Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 220: Methodology for Identification of Regional Service Centers, a Major Substantive Rule of the State Planning Office*, with an "ought to pass" vote. If enacted by the full Legislature, the resolve will allow SPO to amend its service center rule. For more information: <http://www.maine.gov/spo/landuse/techassist/servicecenterlist.htm>.

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Governor's Council on Maine's Quality of Place considers 10 more recommendations. At their meeting on March 25, the quality of place council deliberated on ten additional recommendations. These recommendations build on the 15 recommendations it made in its first report to the Governor in December 2007. The Council's goal is to help Maine refine its traditional approaches to creating economic prosperity for Maine people by adding a new approach – a quality of place investment strategy. It will also make recommendations regarding workforce development for tourism and community design, public access to private lands, and community and downtown revitalization. The council expects to finalize its report in early May. **CONTACT:** Jody Harris at 287-5424 or jody.harris@maine.gov

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Maine Recycles spring launch. Starting April 1, just in time for spring and Earth Day, the Maine Recycles campaign will hit the airwaves. “Everybody recycles” television ads will air on cable channels: MTV, ESPN, WPXT, WPME, Discovery, and the Comedy Channel. The campaign will also feature poster ads hung in coffee shops, printed in weekly publications, posted on promotional Web sites, and displayed at booths and tables at local green events, such as the HOPE Festival in Orono on April 19. Also, look for our fresh, new Web site at www.MaineRecycles.com, an upbeat, youth-friendly site with fun, interactive features. **CONTACT** Jetta Antonakos at 287-9074 or jetta.antonakos@maine.gov

Educational resource centers gather at UMF. The regular meeting of the state's reuse centers was held this week at Everyone's Depot in Farmington. After 30 years in a basement office, UMF has provided new “green” space for the center in the university's education building, a LEED certified building; one of two on the campus. SPO's waste management and recycling team organizes regular meetings of the state's four reuse centers to foster collaboration among the centers. **CONTACT:** Bruce White at 287-5083 or bruce.white@maine.gov.